

COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following lists all of the claims that are or were in the above-identified patent application. The status identifiers respectively provided in parentheses following the claim numbers indicate the current statuses of the claims. In particular, claims having the status of "currently amended" are being amended in this reply.

1. (Currently Amended) An optoelectronic device comprising:
an active region;
a semiconductor region;
a tunnel junction between the active region and the semiconductor region; and
a current blocking region between the active region and the semiconductor region,
wherein the current blocking region ~~operates as~~ comprises a ~~reversed-biased~~ PN junction
~~and that is reverse biased during operation of the optoelectronic device and~~ confines a
current between the active region and the semiconductor region to the current through the
tunnel junction.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the current blocking region
comprises a portion of the tunnel junction in which tunneling has been disabled.

3. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the current blocking region
comprises a portion of the tunnel junction that contains an additional implant that disables
tunneling.

4. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the current blocking region
comprises a portion of the tunnel junction that contains additional dopants that disable
tunneling.

5. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the current blocking region
comprises a portion of the tunnel junction that has a disrupted crystal structure.

6. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein:
the tunnel junction comprises a heavily doped p-type region and a heavily doped
n-type region between the active region and the semiconductor region; and
the current blocking region comprises a structure that is the same as that of the
tunnel junction, except that at least one of the heavily doped p-type region and the heavily

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doped n-type region is missing from the current blocking region.

7. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the current blocking region comprises a portion of the tunnel junction that has been partially diffused.

8. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the current blocking region comprises a portion of the tunnel junction that has been partially diffused by impurity-induced disordering.

9. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the current blocking region comprises a portion of the tunnel junction that has been partially diffused by impurity-free disordering.

10. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the optoelectronic device is a vertical cavity surface emitting laser.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for fabricating an optoelectronic device, comprising:

forming an active region and a semiconductor region with a tunnel junction between the active region and the semiconductor region, wherein during operation of the optoelectronic device, the tunnel junction conducts a current between the active region and the semiconductor region; and

disabling tunneling in a selected part of the tunnel junction to form a current blocking region, ~~wherein during operation of the optoelectronic device the tunnel junction conducts a current between the active region and the semiconductor region and the current blocking region acts as~~ comprises a reverse biased PN junction to block that during operation of the optoelectronic device, is reverse biased and restricts current between the active region and the semiconductor region.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein disabling tunneling comprises ion implantation into the selected part of the tunnel junction.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the implanted species comprise n-type dopants.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the implanted species comprise p-type dopants.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the implanted species comprise an ion that reduces the conductivity of the material into which it is implanted.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein disabling tunneling comprises disrupting the crystal structure in the selected part of the tunnel junction.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein disabling the tunneling comprises partially diffusing the tunnel junction via impurity-induced disordering.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein disabling the tunneling comprises partially diffusing the tunnel junction via impurity-free disordering.

19. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the optoelectronic device is a vertical cavity surface emitting laser.

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